

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I/We hereby declare that:

My/Our residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my/our name.

I/We believe I/We am/are the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

### SINGLE JAW LATCH MECHANISM FOR FIFTH WHEEL HITCH

the specification of which (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ is attached hereto

OR

  X   was filed on October 21, 2005 as United States Application Number 10/554,114 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I/We hereby state that I/We have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I/We acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation application.

I/We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(a)-(d) or (f), or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or Section 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I/We hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Serial No.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Filing Date)

I/We hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I/We acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C.F.R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

PCT/US2004/012060  
(Application Serial No.)

April 20, 2004  
(Filing Date)

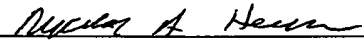
Abandoned  
(Status)(patented, pending, abandoned)

I/We hereby declare that all statements made herein of my/our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I/We hereby appoint Robert H. Earp, III (Reg. No. 41,004), Todd A. Benni (Reg. No. 42,313) Robert C. Baraona (Reg. No. 45,426) and David B. Cupar (Reg. No. 47,510) as my attorneys or agents to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the USPTO connected therewith.

I/We request that correspondence in connection with this application be directed to:

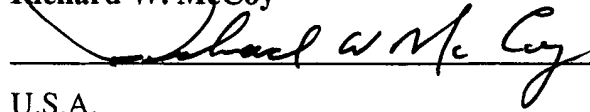
Robert H. Earp, III  
McDonald Hopkins Co., LPA  
2100 Bank One Center  
600 Superior Avenue, East  
Cleveland, OH 44114-2653  
(216) 348-5400

Inventor's Full Name:	<b>Michael A. Hoopes</b>
Inventor's Signature:	<u></u>
Citizenship:	<u>U.S.A.</u>
Post Office Address:	<u>501 U.S. 131, Lot 35</u>
City, State and Country	<u>White Pigeon, MI 49099</u>

Inventor's Full Name:

Richard W. McCoy

Inventor's Signature:



Citizenship:

U.S.A.

Post Office Address:

51159 Deerpath Drive

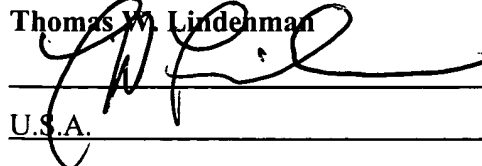
City, State and Country

Granger, IN 46530

Inventor's Full Name:

Thomas W. Lindenman

Inventor's Signature:



Citizenship:

U.S.A.

Post Office Address:

18488 Kern Road

City, State and Country

South Bend, IN 46614

Inventor's Full Name:

Anthony S. Roberts

Inventor's Signature:



Citizenship:

U.S.A.

Post Office Address:

52301 Eward Drive

City, State and Country

Granger, IN 46530